

With a contract from the California Department of Education (CDE), Education Development Center (EDC) is conducting a series of forums throughout California. The purpose of the Regional Forums is to serve as a catalyst to collaborative planning between the county departments of mental health, county offices of education, and school districts in each county. The forums are timed to coincide with planning for the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). There are many school-based mental health programs that already have well-established infrastructures, are evidence-based or promising practices, and are aligned with the priorities and age groups in the Guidelines for PEI. This is a good opportunity to leverage funds for delivery of PEI services.

For professionals in both education and mental health services, this new legislation offers an unprecedented opportunity to provide prevention and early intervention services to infants, children and youth in California. Below is a succinct view of this opportunity:

### **The Essence of Prevention/ Early Intervention**

Written by: Karen Cronian Hurley, M.F.T.

MHSA Coordinator, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

**The presence of Prevention/Early Intervention as a separate component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) represents the biggest change in mental health planning and funding that has occurred in twenty years. As a brand new part of our system, this component of MHSA has the greatest potential to reduce the costs related to longer term mental health treatment, special education, welfare supports and criminal justice system.**

**Prevention/Early Intervention works by addressing a core set of risk factors that target initial onset of mental health problems. Potential multiple negative outcomes can be dramatically reduced for all age groups.**

**The populations that are prioritized in this component of MHSA are:**

- **Underserved cultural populations, all ages**
- **Individuals experiencing onset of serious psychiatric illness**
- **Children/youth in stressed families**
- **Trauma-exposed, all ages**
- **Children/youth at risk for school failure**
- **Children/youth at risk of Juvenile Justice involvement**

**Counties will determine local priorities by conducting a community stakeholder process. There is a state-run effort in this component that will address suicide prevention and student mental health, as well as stigma and discrimination reduction.**

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*With offices in Boston, New York, Washington DC, and San Diego*



**For additional information** about the Regional Forums (see following schedule) or the contract entitled, "Building Collaboration to Provide Mental Health Services in California Schools," contact:

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## Regional Forum Schedule

**All forums will be 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
except Region 11 on November 28 will be 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.\***

Date	Location	CCSESA Region/Counties
October 30, 2007	Tehama County Dept. of Education 1135 Lincoln Street Red Bluff, CA 96080	2. (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity)
November 13, 2007	USC Orange County Center 2300 Michelson Drive Irvine, CA 92612	9. (Imperial, Orange, San Diego)
November 15, 2007	The Garden Center 605 Parkside Way San Mateo, CA 94403	4. (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano)
November 16, 2007	Merced County Office of Education 632 W. 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Merced, CA 95341	7. (Kings, Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Mariposa, Merced)
November 28, 2007	St Anne's Conference Center 155 North Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026	11 (Los Angeles) Time - 8:30 am to 12:30 pm*
December 6, 2007	Placer County Office of Education Annex 11700 Enterprise Drive Auburn, CA 95603	3. (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)
December 13, 2007	Monterey County Office of Education 901 Blanco Circle Salinas, CA 93901	5. (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz)
December 14, 2007	Stanislaus County Office of Education 1100 H Street Modesto, CA 95354	6. (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne)
January 11, 2008	Kern County SOS 1300 17 <sup>th</sup> Street Bakersfield, CA 93301	8. (Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura)
January 16, 2008	West End Ed. Service Center San Bernardino County SS 8265 Aspen Ave. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730	10. (Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernadino)
TBD	TBD	1. (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma)

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